

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting musculoskeletal soft tissue, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a localized area of a patient's body in which affected musculoskeletal soft tissue is located;

providing a treatment composition comprising, in combination:

(i) a selected macrolide antibiotic; and

(ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said musculoskeletal soft tissue; and

applying said treatment composition to said localized area of said patient's body so that said macrolide antibiotic penetrates said affected musculoskeletal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying said treatment compound comprises:

applying said treatment composition topically to a skin area overlying said musculoskeletal soft tissue in said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying said treatment composition comprises:

applying said treatment composition by hypodermic injection into said musculoskeletal soft tissue in said area of the body.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment composition further comprises:

a penetration enhancing adjuvant.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said penetration enhancing adjuvant comprises d-limonene.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A treatment composition for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting musculoskeletal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said treatment composition comprising:

- (i) a ~~selected~~ macrolide antibiotic selected from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin; and
- (ii) ~~a selected mobilizing agent comprising a selected organic gel compound~~ PLO gel in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said musculoskeletal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein when said composition is applied to said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The treatment composition of claim 10, further comprising:

(iii) a selected penetration enhancing adjuvant for increasing penetration of said musculoskeletal soft tissue in said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 17 (original): The treatment composition of claim 16, wherein said penetration enhancing adjuvant comprises d-limonene.

Claim 18 (original): A treatment composition for alleviating pain and inflammation resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal musculoskeletal tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said treatment composition comprising:

(i) a macrolide antibiotic compound selected from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin; and

(ii) PLO gel in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic compound to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein when said composition is applied topically to said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 19 (original): The treatment composition of claim 18, wherein said macrolide antibiotic compound is present in said composition in an amount in the range from about 50 mg/cc of PLO gel to about 3 gm/cc of PLO gel.

Claim 20 (original): The treatment composition of claim 19, wherein said macrolide antibiotic compound is azithromycin.

Claim 21 (original): The treatment composition of claim 20, wherein said azithromycin is present in said composition in an amount of about 250 mg/cc of PLO gel.

Claim 22 (original): The treatment composition of claim 18, further comprising:

a selected penetration enhancing adjuvant for increasing penetration of said macrolide antibiotic compound into said sub-dermal soft tissue.

Claim 23 (original): The treatment composition of claim 22, wherein said penetration enhancing adjuvant comprises d-limonene.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method of alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said method comprising the steps of:

Providing a treatment composition comprising, in combination:

(i) a macrolide antibiotic selected from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin; and

(ii) PLO gel in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue; and
applying said treatment composition to said predetermined area of the body so that said macrolide antibiotic penetrates said sub-dermal soft tissues so as to reach said microbial infection therein.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein said treatment composition further comprises:

a penetration enhancing adjuvant.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 25, wherein said penetration enhancing adjuvant comprises d-limonene.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a treatment composition comprising, in combination:

(i) a selected macrolide antibiotic;

(ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue; and

(iii) a penetration enhancing adjuvant comprising limonene; and

applying said treatment composition to said predetermined area of the body so that said macrolide antibiotic penetrates said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the step of applying said treatment compound comprises:

applying said treatment composition topically to a skin area overlying said sub-dermal soft tissue in said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the step of applying said treatment composition comprises:

applying said treatment composition by injection into said sub-dermal soft tissue in said area of the body.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the step of providing said treatment composition comprises:

selecting said macrolide antibiotic from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein said mobilizing agent comprises a gel compound.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein said gel compound is PLO gel.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A treatment composition for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting musculoskeletal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said treatment composition comprising:

(i) azithromycin; and

(ii) ~~a selected mobilizing agent comprising a selected organic gel compound~~

PLO gel in an amount sufficient to enable said ~~macrolide antibiotic~~ azithromycin to

penetrate into said soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein when said composition is applied to said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 34 (cancelled)

Claim 35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (previously presented): The treatment composition of claim 33, further comprising:
a selected penetration enhancing adjuvant for increasing penetration of said sub-dermal soft tissue in said predetermined area of the body.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The treatment composition of claim 36, wherein said penetration enhancing adjuvant comprises d-limonene.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A treatment composition for alleviating a disease state resulting from a microbial infection affecting sub-dermal soft tissue in a predetermined area of the body, said treatment composition comprising:

- (i) a selected macrolide antibiotic;
- (ii) a selected mobilizing agent in an amount sufficient to enable said macrolide antibiotic to penetrate into said sub-dermal soft tissue so as to reach said microbial infection therein when said composition is applied to said predetermined area of the body; and
- (iii) a selected penetration enhancing adjuvant for increasing penetration of said sub-dermal soft tissue in said predetermined area of the body, said penetration enhancing adjuvant comprising d-limonene.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The treatment composition of claim 38, wherein said macrolide antibiotic composition is selected from the group consisting of azithromycin, erythromycin and roxithromycin.

Claim 40 (presently amended): The treatment composition of claim 39, wherein said macrolide antibiotic compound is azithromycin.

Claim 41 (previously added): The treatment composition of claim 39, wherein said mobilizing agent comprises a selected organogel compound.

Claim 42 (presently amended): The treatment composition of claim 41, wherein said organogel compound is PLO gel.